



Department Updates

Barron County

Veterans Service Office

Scott Bachowski, Veterans Service Officer

We have continued our work in cooperation with the Washburn Veterans Service Office and the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs to organize the Supermarket of Veterans Benefits to be held on July 29th and 30th, 2010. The event will be held in conjunction with a Women Veteran Wellness Fair at the Rice Lake Armory. This event will be a "one-stop-shop" for veterans to learn about eligibility criteria for state veteran's benefits, programs, and services; apply for state and federal benefits, receive information about loans, education benefits, and employment opportunities, get assistance in obtaining military medals and records, obtain information about assisted living and nursing home care, pre-register for burial in state veterans' cemeteries and learn about the wide range of benefits and services available including health care, loans, compensation and pension, education, job training, aging services, funeral honors, and more! We are also including any local businesses that are interested in hiring Veterans to come out and find their new hires. We are encouraging family members of veterans and deployed service members to attend. This event will be a first for Barron County; we are very excited about bringing the event to our county and encourage everyone to stop by to see us!

Barron County Veteran Service Officers will attend the Wisconsin County Veterans Service Officer Training and Business Meeting being held in Green Bay from May 17th through 21st. We will also stay for the weekend events associated with LZ Lam-

beau. In what is expected to be among the largest gatherings of Vietnam and Vietnam-era veterans in U.S. history, some 30,000 veterans from Wisconsin and around the country will convene to be honored for their service and sacrifice for our country at LZ Lambeau: Welcoming Home Wisconsin's Vietnam Veterans, a special weekend of activities in Green Bay, Wisconsin from May 21-23. The highlight of the weekend will be a keynote ceremony inside Green Bay's legendary Lambeau Field Saturday evening May 22. Named for the landing zones that military service members were deployed to during Vietnam, LZ Lambeau was developed by a partnership of Wisconsin Public Television (WPT), The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs, the Wisconsin Historical Society and many veterans' organizations, and will feature educational initiatives, oral presentations, museum exhibits, a portrait display and other community engagement activities. Including the families and friends of attending veterans, the event is expected to draw approximately 100,000 people over three days.

Office staff will be in attendance and participating in the Memorial Day ceremony at the Northern Veterans Memorial Cemetery on Sunday May 30th at 1:00 p.m.. This year's event will mark the 10th anniversary of the cemetery. The ceremony will include a tribute to the over 1400 Veterans interned in the cemetery since the first internment on November 10, 2000. If you can attend; please do, the ceremony is always very special.



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Economic Development

David Miller, Director

The Department is planning or co-planning the following activities. Contact Dave if you would like to attend:

May 11th

The Barron County Economic Development Corporation (BCEDC), is planning an educational seminar and luncheon this spring, targeted to Lenders in the County and will include information on the County's Regional Revolving Loan Funds, MicroLoan, Downtown Façade Loan and SBA programs available to our existing and new businesses. The meeting also plans to include the USDA programs relevant to the needs of the county's business community.

May 13th. Momentum West

The Dept. of Commerce is again hosting their annual series of conferences including 1-on-1 consulting opportunities for businesses. There are several planned to be held throughout the state. Momentum

West's Business Development Committee and the 10 county EDC's have been collaborating with the conference organizers (Commerce, UW-EC's SBDC and Northern WI Trade Assoc) to arrange time and opportunities for businesses in our region to network, to hear from colleagues who have been successful in international markets. There will also be a networking luncheon, sponsored by Momentum West. The activity invites all of the county's businesses that are involved in Exporting.

Take special note: June 13-16, 2010, the Annual Native American Tourism of Wisconsin (NATOW) Conference will be held at the St. Croix Casino in Turtle Lake. This conference will bring hundreds of visitors from across the regions to our county. If you would like more information, please contact the office.

Business Assistance: If you know of a company in need of assistance, I always have room for more! But do ask them to call in

advance, as there is no one to provide counseling if they drop in and I'm with other clients. All it takes is a phone call or an Email to me, as this process has worked extremely well over the years. If you want a glimpse of upcoming activities, be sure to review the current Economic Development Newsletter at www.barroncounty.com where all you need to do is click on "BCEDC News" and the PDF will open for you.

Here is the current project update:

As of April 30, the Department has taken on 25 start-up reviews for feasibility and planning stages (124 total with 2009 rollovers); 3 educational and demographic requests for grant submissions, 5 marketing and PR events with our economic development collaborations and 10 expansion.

The current Economic Development Newsletter is now online for your review at: www.barroncounty.com, click "BCEDC NEWS".

Health & Human Services

Judy Demers, Director

As a result of the NaCo Prescription Discount Card that was made available in Barron County on January 1, 2010, nearly \$10,000 has been saved by Barron County residents in the cost of prescription drugs. In January, 29 people participated, purchased 237 prescriptions, and saved \$1952; in February, 27 people participated, purchased 233 prescriptions, and saved \$2275; in March, 33 people participated, purchased 316 prescriptions, and saved \$5593. The card is available at County offices, libraries and senior centers in Barron County.

In March, 547 individuals in Barron County were receiving BadgerCare-Core, the Medi-

caid program for adults with no minor children. This is the program that was implemented in July, 2009, with eligibility being determined through the Eligibility Services Center operated by the State. The Core plan reached its capacity within a few months, and then a waiting list was formed. It is estimated that about 250 Barron County residents are on this waiting list. The legislature recently approved a program to serve those on the waiting list called BadgerCare-Basic. It will be available at a cost of \$130 per month to those found eligible. While the coverage afforded under BadgerCare-Basic is substantially less than Core, its primary goal is to protect individuals from the financial ramifications that

might result from a catastrophic illness.

Barron County is participating along with 10 other counties in the Western Region to explore the feasibility of developing crisis diversion services to reduce the incidence of hospitalizations for children and adults who are experiencing a crisis due to a mental health incident or as a result of substance abuse. The initiative is currently in the information-gathering phase, which will result in formulation of findings and determination of feasibility by early June. From there, a determination will be made as to direction. All counties are in need of such services, and it is hoped that something might be developed by early 2011.

Treasurer's Office

Vonnie Ritchie, Treasurer

Tax Deed

The final day to pay the delinquent 2006 taxes was April 23, 2010. The Final Judgment and Order finalizing the In Rem foreclosure process will be sent to the Judge in a few days. After the documents are signed and

filed, the owners will have the opportunity to repurchase their property within 30 days by paying all years of delinquent taxes, interest, penalty, and tax deed fees. A complete listing of unpaid parcels is available in the Treasurer's Office..

UW Extension

Missy Bablick, Family Living Educator

Cooperative Extension Welcomes a New Family Living Educator

Hi, my name is Missy Bablick. I started in Barron County on March 1st. For the past 5 years I have been teaching Family and Consumer Education as well as Health at Birchwood School. I have worked with youth of all ages ranging from Kindergarten to seniors. In the past 2 years I have also had the opportunity to work with a nonprofit organization in Washburn County focusing on improving teaching and learning, as well as data collection and implementation

of AODA grant work. I have been very involved in community coalitions as well as implementing AODA curriculum and after school programming.

As your Family living Educator I hope to focus on financial literacy as well as parenting and family. I am currently working with the Drug Court, as well as the jail to implement some programming in these areas with plans in the works to offer programming in the community as well. I also have a plan to begin a Master Food Pre-server team in Barron County that can address food safety and preservation ques-

tions. Due to the tremendous increase of families interested in growing their own food (40% increase in the sale of vegetable garden seeds this spring) many people will be trying to preserve foods who have little, or no experience in doing so.

I am also in the process of working with other county departments and community-based organizations to assess their educational needs and implement programming that will bring the resources of the University of Wisconsin System to support their efforts.

Register of Deeds

Joyce Kaseno, Register of Deeds

There is legislation waiting for the Governor's signature for an increase in the fees for recording of documents. Those documents that are currently being recorded for the fee of \$11.00 for the first page and \$2.00 each for any additional pages would be changed to a flat fee of \$25.00 no matter how many pages are being recorded. In addition, language was added to include the redacting of Social Security numbers from all documents that are available on the internet. If a county offers their docu-

ments on the internet, a reasonable effort to redact any Social Security numbers from those documents would be done and a \$5.00 fee per document recorded was added to the bill to cover the cost to redact the numbers. Beginning 30 days after the published date the fees would go into affect.

Our software company, Fidlar Technologies, has already given us the upgrade for the redaction software and we have been redacting the Social Security numbers from any documents available on the internet. As more documents

are added the software finds as many as it can automatically and then a search is done to find any that have not been done automatically to redact them manually. So far, we have completed from 1999 (the first year they were put on the internet) through 2009. 154,475 documents were recorded during those years. As we add the documents from the microfiche we will be manually checking to see which need to be redacted. This will continue until we reach the year 1935, the year that Social Security numbers were created. 384,988 documents were recorded during the years 1935 through 1998.

County Clerk

DeeAnn Cook, County Clerk

A representative from Trivin will be coming early in May to provide training for our staff that will be providing services for DMV. The Wisconsin Online Registration System (OLRS) will allow us to process vehicle titles and issue license plates for new and used vehicles and renew and issue vehicle license tabs. There are no term or quantity commitments so if we find that providing this is not feasible, we can dis-

continue it at any time. Hopefully, it will work out well and we can provide this service to the citizens of Barron County and help lessen the burden for DMV.

County Board, Municipality and Employee information for the 2010-2011 Barron County Directory will be exported directly from databases we currently use for our website. The initial setup of the reports necessary is a big job but will eliminate a

lot of redundant work in future years. Jeff Sirek in the IT Department has been most helpful in the development of the reports we will be using and Charla Kucko in payroll has had a big part in getting data ready for this purpose. This is another great example of the efficiencies that are gained with cooperative efforts between departments.

Aging & Disability Resource Center / Office on Aging

Charlene Oftedahl, Director

This month marks one year since Wisconsin's Family Care became available to Barron County residents. Family Care is a publicly funded program which provides long term care services for frail elderly and adults with developmental or physical disabilities. On May 1st two hundred long term care clients of Barron County DHHS were transitioned to become members of a multi-county care management organization called Northern Bridges, which provides them with the Family Care benefit. Approximately the same number of individuals remained on a waiting list for services. Last year our four year old Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) joined with Rusk and Washburn Counties to become a regional ADRC with offices in Barron, Ladysmith, and Spooner. Since

May 2009, the Information & Assistance Specialists have provided enrollment/disenrollment counseling for 172 people from the waitlist and nursing home relocation program. Of the 172 we have met with, 103 have gone on to enroll in either Northern Bridges or IRIS. IRIS is another statewide option for persons who are able to "self manage" their long term care services within an approved budget. The State places restrictions on the number of people we can enroll each month, therefore we also continue to add people to the waitlist which currently totals 146 elderly and adults with disabilities.

MONEY SMART: The Elderly Benefit Specialists, Kim Gogan and Mary Simpson, are collaborating with Missy Bablick of UW Extension to offer a Money Smart class series running Thursday afternoons from

May 6 - 27 at the Chetek Senior Center. The classes are free and persons of any age may attend to increase their budgeting skills. Topics include budgeting tips and tools, basics on different kinds of loans, credit decisions, credit cards, understanding credit reports, collection practices, consumer protection laws, identity protection, and scams.

Over 300 persons enjoyed the **50 Plus Challenge To Living Well** on Sunday May 2 at Cedar Mall in Rice Lake. It included free health screenings, informational booths, and Dr. Kanz's presentation on "Understanding Your Aging Brain." This event was planned by staff from the ADRC and Office on Aging, Lakeview Medical Center, Marshfield Clinic, and UW - Barron County Campus.

Sheriff's Department

Chris Fitzgerald, Sheriff

May 8-15 is National Law Enforcement Week where we take time to reflect on law enforcement officers who have given the ultimate sacrifice and take time to thank all law enforcement officers for the work they do to keep us safe. I would like to thank all the deputies at the Barron County Sheriff's Dept for the work and sacrifice that they do each day.

Project Lifesaver is our newest program that we just launched in the county. It is a program dedicated to safeguarding and locating individuals who wander and become lost due to Alzheimer's, Autism, Down syndrome and other related conditions. The initial cost is \$300.00 and can be waived for some individuals and the monthly cost is \$10.00. If you know anyone who needs this service or would like more information please contact the Barron County Sheriff's Dept.

We had a very safe and successful prom season in the county and I want to congratulate all the youth in the county for making sure that they are safe and their friends. Parents should also be commended on not hosting underage alcohol parties and for talking to your kids about not using alcohol underage.

Also always remember to buckle up, slow down and don't drink and drive.

Human Resources

Rachael Richie, HR Director

New/Replacement Positions				
Position Title	Office/Department	Incumbent	Date Filled	New/Replacement
Assistant Clerk of Court	Clerk of Court	Recruiting		Replacement
Mental Health Case Manager	Health/Human Services	Recruiting		Replacement

CPR/AED refresher training sessions will be held as follows:

Thursday, May 20, 2010 - Government Center, Room 110A&B

9am - 10am 10:30am - 11:30am

Friday, May 21, 2010 - Justice Center, EOC Room

9am - 10am 10:30am - 11:30am

- 2010 American Cancer Society Run/Walk was held April 24th with 4 Barron County employees walking/running in the event. The Barron County team raised over \$700!

AED's are located:

Government Center:

1st floor near Auditorium ; 2nd floor, East side near rear entrance of Register of Deed's; 3rd floor HHS reception desk by the north restroom entrance AND public health

Justice Center:

1st floor - Public corridor outside of dispatch; 2nd floor - Courtroom Corridor

Highway:

Shop—break room

Administration / Committee Updates

Jeff French, Administrator

Property Committee:

- Met at 11am at 1988 16 ½ avenue, Town of Stanley for purpose of walking proposed ATV trail, Cameron to Rice Lake on active Progressive Rail line, and heard concerns from Hugh and Karen Mommsen.
- Reconvened meeting at 1pm at Government Center, hearing public comment from:
- * Dan Thole representing NORTRAC Commission with presentation of resolution supporting ATV trail from Cameron to Rice Lake.
- * Terry Henck, supporting trail.
- * Hugh Mommsen, in opposition to trail.
- * Owen Anderson commented on horse trails in Bear Lake County Forest expressing concerns that we don't give away our future heritage by allowing a single user group to monopolize a segment of County Forest.
- * John Porter recommended keeping 15 year Forestry Plan as-is by allowing occasional horse use on County Forest Land.
- Approved City of Barron Sesquicentennial Committee to remove 100 year (1960) time capsule from front lawn adjacent to Quaderer Memorial Stone.
- After much discussion and public comment voted to proceed with development of ATV Trail from Cameron to Rice Lake, all members voting in favor.
- Voted to have public hearing on proposed changes to 15 year Forestry Plan at 7pm on June 7th.
- Received information from Tyler Grutzmacher on City of Cumberland letter dated April 8th, wherein City is returning operation of dam located on County trunk Hwy P in the City of Cumberland to Barron County. This item to be brought back at a future meeting.
- Approved ordinance change to Chapter 19 of Parks and Recreation Code, resolution authorizing change to be forwarded to full County Board for their approval.
- Received staff updates on:
- * Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV) Pilot Program: Discussed potential weight, width and size limits.

- * Moon Lake Dam Re-construction: Work to begin on June 15th with potential 5-6 week project timeline.
- * Museum Landscape Design: Approved plan for various types of shrubs and trees to be planted at west entrance. This plan will help to eliminate the dramatic scenery changes when a clear-cutting of the County Forest land occurs in the future.

Executive:

- April 16th budget meeting: Administrator presented information on: budget deficit, staffing reductions and estimated changes to health insurance costs. Reviewed benchmarking spreadsheet for thirteen departments along with mill rate comparison which evaluated our County with other Wisconsin Counties same information to be presented to the County Board in May.
- May 5th regular meeting: Approved 1% annual pay raises for Clerk of Court and Sheriff while requiring an additional 5%, 15% total contribution, towards health insurance.
- Approved City of Barron Sesquicentennial Committee to remove 100 year (1960) time capsule from front lawn adjacent to Quaderer Memorial Stone.
- Discussed binding arbitration law, directing Administrator to contact WCA for information they may be able to provide and to bring back at a future meeting.
- Forwarded resolution to full Board in support of allowing Counties the same opportunity to impose furloughs as State does.
- Project Lifesaver carryover request from Sheriff's Department was referred back to Law Enforcement Committee.
- Approved change to employee meal reimbursement policy that allows increase in per meal costs when an employee is in a high-dollar meal area as defined by IRS.
- Administrator presented information on Canadian National line purchase and potential need for budget amendment if rehabilitation of same track should begin yet this year.
- Approved presentation from Roll Call-Pro wireless voting system to full County Board in August or September.

Staff Reports/Updates:

- Sales Tax/Interest Income: This information was discussed at a previous meeting and requested to be brought forward. Sales tax for the first four months of 2010 is \$896,324 which compares to \$962,332 for 2009 down \$66,008 or 6.8%. Total 2010 sales tax collections have been budgeted for \$3,140,000 down \$140,000 for 2009 or 4.4%.
- Interest revenue has been another concern expressed as it pertains to the budget; to-date we have recognized \$122,610 of interest income with a total yearly budget of \$250,000.
- Health Insurance Costs: Since February 2008 HI premiums have been \$7,896,396 against total health costs of \$7,968,797 with an accompanying estimated benefit expense ratio of 101.80% for active employees. For retired employees the numbers are as follows: Premiums \$184,894, total health, \$535,942 and estimated benefit expense ratio of 291.17%.
- Barron County Maps: Additional costs of \$300 were incurred because of new information being added after the initial setup.
- Personal Benefit Statements: with actual 2009 costs have been distributed to all employees:
- Went into closed session to confer with legal counsel on Nazca Contract but, took no formal action.